

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W

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R 111550Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4469

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 0944

FOR BARTCH FROM AMBASSADOR HILL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: WELFARE MINISTER REQUESTS EMBASSY AID

1. SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER DEMARCO REQUESTED MY HELP IN SEEKING TO OBTAIN MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR AN ARGENTINE CITIZEN IN US. THE PATIENT, A YOUNG GIRL, NOW AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL IN SAN FRANCISCO IS GRAVELY ILL AND NEEDS A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT.
2. THE DIRECTOR OF DIALYSIS AND PEDIATRIC TRANSPLANTS, A DR. DONALD POTTER, HAS TOLD FAMILY THE GIRL URGENTLY NEEDS TO BEGIN TREATMENT. THE ESTIMATED COST OF TREATMENT IS \$75,000 AND THE HOSPITAL CANNOT ACCEPT CASE UNTIL ASSURED SOME RESPONSIBLE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION CAN UNDERWRITE COSTS.
3. THE MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY DISCUSSED CASE WITH EMBOFF FEBRUARY 10. AIDE NOTED THAT MINISTER AWARE USG HAS NO FUNDS FOR THIS TYPE OF CASE AND WOULD UNDERSTAND IF NOTHING COULD BE DONE. THE PROBLEM IS CLEARLY AN ARGENTINE RESPONSIBILITY, HE ADDED. MINISTRY HERE HAS PROVIDED GIRL WITH TRANSPORTATION COSTS AND WILL HELP FOOT BILLS. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS AND LIMITED FUNDS AVAILABLE AT MINISTRY, HE ASKED IF I COULD LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY THAT TREATMENT COULD BE OBTAINED AT LOWER COST.
4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CONTACT DR. POTTER TO SEE IF HE HAS SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TREATMENT REQUIRED MIGHT BE OBTAINED AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOWER COST. PATIENT'S NAME IS SANDRA MAIETA. CABLE RESPONSE

ASAP.

5. FYI EMBASSY HAS SUGGESTED THAT SOCIAL WELFARE MIN CONTACT
LOCAL CHARITIES TO SEE IF THEIR US COUNTERPARTS COULD HELP
DEFRAY COSTS. MINISTER PERSONALLY UNDERSTANDS USG CANNOT FOOT
BILLS BUT WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST TO HELP HIM
OBTAIN THE INFO HE DESIRES.
HILL

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